

# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

## California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

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### **CAL FIRE reminds all Californians to “Prevent Kitchen Fires”** *National Fire Prevention Week October 6 - 12, 2013*

**Sacramento** – Every year in California firefighters respond to residential structure fires that take lives and cause millions of dollars in damage. From October 6-12, 2013, CAL FIRE is teaming with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) for Fire Prevention Week to educate Californians on the simple steps they can take to help protect their family from the most common cause of residential fires.

According to the latest research, unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Two of every five home fires begin in the kitchen – more than any other place in the home. Cooking fires are also the leading cause of fire-related home injuries.

“Often when firefighters are called to a fire that started in the kitchen, the residents tell us that they only left the kitchen for a few minutes,” said State Fire Marshal Tonya Hoover, CAL FIRE-Office of the State Marshal. “Sadly, that’s all it takes for a fire to start. We hope that Fire Prevention Week will enable us to reach folks in the community before they’ve suffered a damaging lesson and remember ‘Fire is Everyone’s Fight’.”

CAL FIRE would like to offer a few important cooking safety tips that will help keep your family safe:

- Have a 3-foot “kid free” zone around the stove.
- Stand by your pan and keep an eye on what you fry. If you leave the kitchen, turn the burner off.
- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove. Then no one can bump them or pull them over.
- Have a fire extinguisher 10 feet from the stove on the exit side of the kitchen.
- Never pour water on a grease fire; turn the stove off and cover the pan with a lid, or close the oven door.
- Keep anything that can catch fire - potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper or plastic bags, food packaging, towels, or curtains - away from your stovetop.
- If your clothing should catch fire, immediately **stop, drop, and roll** to smother flames.
- Scalds and burn injuries are on the increase. The highest risks are the very young and the elderly.

Learn more about cooking safety in this short video: [Click Here](#).

For a copy of Governor Brown’s message on Fire Prevention Week: [Click Here](#).

For more fire safety tips, visit the CAL FIRE website at [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov).